

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application Serial No. 09/986,554
Attorney Docket No. Q67202

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled).

2. (currently amended): An ordering method comprising:

transmitting sales information from an agent server to a user terminal via a

communications network, wherein the sales information-containing sales items that are only available in sales shops which are not accessible via the communications network includes product listings for a plurality of items which are sold only at sales shops that are not accessible via said communications network;

at said user terminal, displaying, at said user terminal, the transmitted sales information which is received from the agent server, wherein the user selects an item among the plurality of items that are displayed to allow a user to select an item and transmitting a request signal to said server for a service charge required for inspecting the selected item;

transmitting, from said user terminal, a first inspection request signal to said agent server for a service charge associated with inspecting the selected item at a sales shop which is not accessible via said communications network;

~~at said agent server, determining, at said agent server, said service charge depending~~
based on contents of the first inspection request signal and a cost database, and transmitting the
~~determined service charge that is determined to said user terminal;~~

~~at said user terminal, displaying, at said user terminal, the transmitted service charge that~~
is transmitted from the agent server, wherein the user terminal to allow said user to make a
~~decision as to whether an inspection of said selected item is to be performed and transmitting~~
transmits a second inspection request signal to said server for indicating that the selected item be
~~inspected when said user makes said decision~~if inspection of the selected item is instructed by
the user;

~~at said agent server, transmitting, from said agent server, an inspection report of said the~~
selected item to said user terminal, wherein said inspection report includes results of inspecting
the selecting item at the sales shop by an agent;

~~at said user terminal, displaying at said user terminal, the transmitted inspection report to~~
~~allow said user to make a decision as to whether said item is to be purchased and transmitting a~~
~~purchase order to said agent server for requesting a purchase of said selected item on behalf of~~
~~said user when the user makes the decision, wherein the user terminal transmits a purchase order~~
of the selected item to be purchased by the agent if purchase of the selected item is instructed by
the user; and

~~at said agent server, transmitting, from the agent server, an acknowledgment message to~~
~~said user terminal in response to said purchase order which is received from the user terminal,~~
wherein the acknowledgement message indicates that the purchase order has been accepted.

3. (currently amended): The ordering method of claim 2, wherein ~~said sales information contains items that are only available in sales shops which are not accessible via said communications network~~ said communications network is the Internet.

4. (currently amended): The ordering method of claim 2, wherein said inspection report ~~contains~~ includes a bill for requesting the user to pay for said inspection of the selected item.

5. (currently amended): An ordering method comprising:
transmitting sales information from an agent server to a user terminal via a communication network, ~~said wherein the sales information containing items that are only available in sales shops which are not accessible via said communication network~~ includes product listings for a plurality of items which are sold only at sales shops that are not accessible via said communications network;

~~at said user terminal, displaying, at said user terminal, the transmitted sales information which is received from the agent server, wherein the user terminal transmits a first search request signal to said server to request a service charge associated with performing a search for a desired item if the desired item is not included among the plurality of items included in the product listings to allow a user to select an item and transmitting a request signal to said server for a~~

~~service charge required for making a search for a desired item if the desired item is not found in the displayed information;~~

~~at said agent server, determining, at said agent server, said service charge depending based on contents of the first search request signal and a cost database, and transmitting the determined service charge that is determined to said user terminal;~~

~~at said user terminal, displaying, at the user terminal, the transmitted service charge that is transmitted from the agent server, wherein the user terminal to allow said user to make a decision as to whether said search is to be performed and transmitting transmits a second search request signal to said server for indicating that the desired item be searched when said user makes said decision if search for the desired item is instructed by the user;~~

~~at said agent server, transmitting, from the agent server, a search report of said desired item to said user terminal;~~

~~at said user terminal, displaying, at the user terminal, the transmitted search report to allow said user to make a decision as to whether said item is to be purchased and transmitting a purchase order to said agent server for requesting a purchase of said item on behalf of said user when the user makes said decision, wherein the user terminal transmits a purchase order of the desired item to be purchased by the agent if purchase of the desired item is instructed by the user;~~

and

~~at said agent server, transmitting, from the agent server, an acknowledgment message to said user terminal in response to said purchase order which is received from the user terminal, wherein the acknowledgement message indicates that the purchase order has been accepted.~~

6. (currently amended): The ordering method of claim 5, ~~said sales information contains items that are only available in sales shops which are not accessible via said communications network~~ communications network is the Internet.

7. (currently amended): The ordering method of claim 5, wherein said search report ~~contains~~ includes a bill for requesting the user to pay for said search of the ~~selected~~ desired item.

8. (currently amended): An ordering method comprising the steps of:

a) transmitting sales information from an agent server to a user terminal via a communications network, wherein the sales information includes product listings of a plurality of items which are sold only at sales shops that are not accessible via said communications network ~~said sales information containing items that are only available in sales shops which are not accessible via said communication network;~~

b) ~~at said user terminal,~~ displaying, at said user terminal, the transmitted sales information which is received from the agent server to allow a user to select one of a plurality of decision branches;

c) transmitting, to said agent server, a purchase order if the user selects a first decision branch, a first request signal for requesting a first service charge required for inspecting a desired item contained in said displayed information if the user selects a second decision branch, and a second request signal for requesting a second service charge required for making a

search of a desired item which is not contained in said displayed information if the user selects a third decision branch;

d) ~~at said agent server, determining, at the agent server,~~ said first service charge if said first request signal is received ~~depending based~~ on contents of the first request signal and a cost database, determining said second service charge if said second request signal is received ~~depending based~~ on contents of the second request signal and a cost database, and transmitting the ~~determined~~ first or second service charge that is determined to said user terminal;

e) ~~at said user terminal, displaying the transmitted service charge to allow said user to make a decision as to whether an inspection or a search of the desired item is to be performed and transmitting a request signal to said server for indicating that the desired item be inspected or searched when said user makes said decision~~ displaying, at said user terminal, the first service charge if the first request signal is received or the second service charge if the second request signal is received, wherein the user terminal transmits a third request signal to said server if inspection or search of the desired item is instructed by the user;

f) at said agent server, transmitting an inspection report of said item or a search report of said item to said user terminal, depending on contents of the third request signal ~~of step (e)~~;

g) at said user terminal, displaying the transmitted inspection report or search report; ~~to allow said user to make a decision as to whether said item is to be purchased and transmitting a purchase order to said agent server for requesting a purchase of said item on behalf of said user if the user makes said decision~~ wherein the user terminal transmits a purchase order of the

selected item to be purchased by the agent if purchase of the selected item is instructed by the user; and

h) at said agent server, transmitting an acknowledgment message to said user terminal if the purchase order of step (c) or step (g) is received.

9. (currently amended): The ordering method of claim 8, wherein said ~~sales information contains items that are only available in sales shops which are not accessible via said communications network~~ communications network is the Internet.

10. (currently amended): The ordering method of claim 8, wherein said inspection report ~~contains~~ includes a bill for requesting the user to pay for said inspection of the selected item and said and said search report ~~contains~~ includes a bill for requesting the user to pay for said search of the selected item.

11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended): An ordering system comprising:
a communications network;
a plurality of user terminals connected to said network; and
an agent server connected to said network ~~for transmitting~~ that transmits sales information to a user terminal ~~of one of~~ among said plurality of user terminals, said sales information

~~containing items that are only available in sales shops which are not accessible via said~~
~~communication network~~including product listings of a plurality of items which are sold only at
sales shops that are not accessible via said communications network;

wherein the user terminal ~~displaying~~ displays the transmitted sales information which is
received from the agent server, wherein the user selects an item among the plurality of items that
are displayed and the user terminal transmits a first inspection request signal to said agent server
for a service charge associated with inspecting the selected item at a sales shop which is not
accessible via said communications network~~to allow a user to select an item and transmitting a~~
~~request signal to said server for a service charge required for inspecting the selected item;~~

wherein said agent server ~~determining~~ determines said service charge ~~depending based on~~
contents of the first inspection request signal and a cost database, and the agent server transmits
transmitting the determined service charge that is determined to said user terminal;

wherein said user terminal ~~displaying~~ displays the transmitted service charge that is
transmitted from the agent server, and the user terminal transmits a second inspection request
signal to the agent server if inspection of the selected item is instructed by the user~~to allow said~~
~~user to make a decision as to whether an inspection of said selected item is to be performed and~~
~~transmitting a request signal to said server for indicating that the selected item be inspected when~~
~~said user makes said decision;~~

wherein said agent server ~~transmitting~~ transmits an inspection report of said the selected
item to said user terminal, said inspection report including results of inspecting the selected item
at the sale shop by an agent;

wherein said user terminal displaying displays the transmitted inspection report to allow
~~said user to make a decision as to whether said item is to be purchased and transmitting a~~
~~purchase order to said agent server for requesting a purchase of said selected item on behalf of~~
~~said user when the user makes said decision~~and transmits a purchase order of the selected item to
be purchased by the agent if purchase of the selected item is instructed by the user; and

wherein said agent server transmitting transmits an acknowledgment message to said user
terminal in response to said purchase order which is received from the user terminal, the
acknowledgement message indicating that the purchase order has been accepted.

13. (currently amended): The ordering system of claim 12, wherein said ~~sales~~
~~information contains items that are only available in sales shops which are not accessible via said~~
~~communications network~~ communications network is the Internet.

14. (currently amended): The ordering system of claim 12, wherein said inspection
report ~~contains~~ includes a bill for requesting the user to pay for said inspection of the selected
item.

15. (currently amended): An ordering system comprising:
a communications network;
a plurality of user terminals connected to said network; and

an agent server connected to said network ~~for transmitting~~that transmits sales information
to a user terminal among said plurality of user terminals, said sales information including
product listings of a plurality of items which are sold only at sales shops that are not accessible
via said communications network~~sales information to a user terminal of one of said plurality of~~
~~user terminals, said sales information containing items that are only available in sales shops~~
~~which are not accessible via said communication network;~~

wherein the user terminal ~~displaying~~displays the transmitted sales information which is
received from the agent server, wherein the user terminal transmits a first search request signal to
said server to request a service charge associated with performing a search for a desired item if
the desired item is not included among the plurality of items in the product listings~~to allow a user~~
~~to select a desired item and transmitting a request signal to said server for a service charge~~
~~required for making a search of the desired item if the desired item is not found in the displayed~~
~~information;~~

wherein said agent server ~~determining~~determines said service charge ~~depending based on~~
contents of the first search request signal and a cost database, and the agent server transmits
~~transmitting the determined service charge~~ that is determined to said user terminal;

wherein said user terminal ~~displaying~~displayed the transmitted service charge that is
transmitted from the agent server, and the user terminal transmits a second search request signal
to said server if search for the desired item is instructed by the user~~to allow said user to make a~~
~~decision as to whether said search is to be performed and transmitting a request signal to said~~
~~server for indicating that the desired item be searched when said user makes said decision;~~

wherein said agent server ~~transmitting~~ transmits a search report of said ~~the~~ desired item to said user terminal;

wherein said user terminal ~~displaying~~ displays the transmitted search report ~~to allow said user to make a decision as to whether said desired item is to be purchased and transmitting a purchase order to said agent server for requesting a purchase of said desired item on behalf of said user when the user makes said decision~~ and the user terminal transmits a purchase order of the desired item to be purchased by the agent if purchase of the desired item is instructed by the user, and

wherein said agent server ~~transmitting~~ transmits an acknowledgment message to said user terminal in response to said purchase order which is received from the user terminal, said acknowledgement message indicating that the purchase order has been accepted.

16. (currently amended): The ordering system of claim 15, wherein said ~~sales information contains items that are only available in sales shops which are not accessible via said communications network~~ communications network is the Internet.

17. (currently amended): The ordering system of claim 15, wherein said search report ~~contains~~ includes a bill for requesting the user to pay for said search of the selected item.

18. (currently amended): An ordering system comprising:
a communications network;

a plurality of user terminals connected to said network; and
an agent server connected to said network ~~for transmitting~~that transmits sales information
to a user terminal ~~of one of~~among said plurality of user terminals, said sales information
~~containing items that are only available in sales shops which are not accessible via said~~
~~communications networks~~including product listings of a plurality of items which are sold only at
shops that are not accessible via said communications network;

wherein said user terminal ~~displaying~~displays the transmitted sales information to allow
a user to select one of a plurality of decision branches, the user terminal transmitting to said
agent server a first purchase order if the user selects a first decision branch, a first request signal
for requesting a first service charge required for inspecting a desired item contained in said
displayed information if the user selects a second decision branch, and a second request signal
for requesting a second service charge required for making a search of a desired item which is
not contained in said displayed information if the user selects a third decision branch,

wherein said agent server ~~determining~~determines said first service charge if said first
request signal is received ~~depending based on~~ contents of the first request signal and a cost
database, the agent server determines ~~determining~~ said second service charge if said second
request signal is received ~~depending based on~~ contents of the second request signal and a cost
database, and transmitting the ~~determined~~ first or second service charge that is determined to said
user terminal;

wherein said user terminal ~~displaying~~displays the first service charge if the first request
signal is received or the second service charge if the second request signal is received, said user

terminal transmitting a third request signal to said server if inspection or search of the desired item is instructed by the user~~transmitted service charge to allow said user to make a decision as to whether an inspection or a search of the desired item is to be performed and transmitting a request signal to said server for indicating that the desired item be inspected or searched when said user makes said decision;~~

wherein said agent server ~~transmitting~~ transmits an inspection report of said item or a search report of said item to said user terminal, depending on contents of the third request signal,

wherein said user terminal ~~displaying~~ displays the transmitted inspection report or search report, said user terminal transmitting a purchase order of the selected item to be purchased by the agent if purchase of the selected item is instructed by the user~~to allow said user to make a decision as to whether said item is to be purchased and transmitting a second purchase order to said agent server for requesting a purchase of said item on behalf of said user if the user makes said decision, and~~

wherein said agent server ~~transmitting~~ transmits an acknowledgment message to said user terminal in response to each of said first and second purchase orders.

19. (currently amended): The ordering system of claim 18, wherein said ~~sales information contains items that are only available in sales shops which are not accessible via said communications network~~ communications network is the Internet.

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20. (currently amended): The ordering system of claim 18, wherein said inspection report ~~contains~~includes a bill for requesting the user to pay for said inspection of the selected item and said and said search report ~~contains~~includes a bill for requesting the user to pay for said search of the selected item.